

Adur Ferry Bridge

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Iconic, Inspirational and Innovative

At Shoreham Harbour we were appointed to replace the existing 1920s footbridge in this environmentally challenging area with numerous interested local parties and stakeholders. An iconic footbridge has been created for pedestrians, cyclists and mobility scooter users, encouraging carbon-neutral journeys and a providing a healthier way to meet users' travel needs.

Users' feedback impacted the design, including the provision of a clear line of sight across the bridge, high-level clear glass panels for full visibility and wind protection, and integral LED handrail lighting to help ensure users' safety after dark.

The project was awarded the Considerate Constructors "Performance beyond Compliance" award noting in particular our Project and Community Investment Strategies for:

- Securing everyone's safety
- Caring for the workforce
- Enhancing the appearance of the new bridge
- Showing respect for the community
- Protecting the environment
- Maintaining a clean and tidy site with up-to-date information boards
- Our professional and polite workforce

Technical Expertise for Sensitive Construction Techniques

The Adur Ferry Bridge provides a vital link for the people of Shoreham-by-Sea, across a stretch of tidal salt marsh from the harbour to the lower beach road. The modern steel and concrete composite structure required the development of innovative, sensitive techniques to



TOP: Adur Ferry Bridge at dusk

MIDDLE: New low-level LED lighting providing better visibility at night

BOTTOM: Shoreham community admiring the new footbridge

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access works in the tidal estuary for construction of the substructures and 220m long structure, including a 50m swing span to allow river traffic to pass through. The steelwork was delivered by barge and a crawler crane housed on a jack-up barge used to successfully lift the central span into place.



The construction combined clear glazed parapets complete with LED lighting built into the handrail of the bridge. This solution reassures the user that they can safely cross at any time of the day or night. The high-level clear glass panels provide the combined benefits of full visibility as well as wind protection. The glazed parapet design also affords unrestricted views of the river further enhancing the people's enjoyment of the area.

Sustainable Service Led Solutions

Through an in-depth understanding of wider stakeholder requirements, the final bridge design allows people to reach the town centre from Shoreham Beach in a way that does not expose the surrounding environment to ongoing damage.



Liaison with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), Environment Agency, Natural England, the Marine Management Organisation, Shoreham Port Authority, Trinity House and the adjacent Sussex Yacht Club was carried out and ensured that the design and proposals for the construction and demolition did not adversely conflict with the adjacent SSSI and Conservation Area Status; the upstream over wintering bird sanctuary; the river bed, tidal shore and salt marsh habitat; river erosion; operational river and harbour use.

The resulting design actually improved river capacity and mitigated the potential flood risk by utilising a mono-pile solution with increased span lengths, combined with the removal of the existing footbridge approach embankments.

TOP: Central swing span which opens in under three minutes

MIDDLE: Aerial overview of Adur Ferry Bridge under construction

BOTTOM: The first crossings over the new footbridge

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Successful Partnerships for Seamless Handover

Through early liaison and pro-active local engagement our strategy was to identify any issues before they could impact on the project objectives. We consulted with the local press and local MP, inviting them to the site at the start of the works for a presentation and Q&A session to portray the complexity of the scheme and challenges that might arise. Weekly public surgeries were held to keep residents informed of the works / progress, local commitments given and honoured throughout.

The scheme was delivered on time and to budget through successful partnerships that secured funding, managed the sensitive and complex environmental, ecological and community constraints. Continuous improvement and innovative solutions created further cost savings and sustainable benefits such as bulk material from the temporary access causeways was re-used in the public realm works and sold to other local projects.



Community Benefit

The new footbridge reconnects a much loved route across the river. Our team in Shoreham worked tirelessly to ensure the bridge was in a pristine condition to welcome the community, and had to negotiate, arrange and accommodate many requests from the county and local authorities, harbour authorities and the public. Through our community investment at all stages of the project we worked collaboratively with our customer to:

- Retain a local facility that was at potential risk of closure.
- Engage with Community Groups and users.
- Involve local groups such as a Special Needs School, to learn about the project.



TOP: A couple who wanted to walk along the Adur Ferry Bridge following their wedding

MIDDLE: Adur Ferry Bridge signage

BOTTOM: Adur Ferry Bridge at dusk

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- Enhance the local area leading to follow on public realm upgrades.
- Provide a focal point, drawing in visitors and spend in the local amenities.
- Invest in the area, such as the Lower Beach Pub takeover and refurbishment.
- Minimise impact from the construction operations.
- Provide a bus shuttle service whilst the old bridge was out of action.
- Enhance the crossing so the vulnerable feel safer using the facility at night.
- Engage with the Adur community to plan a day of celebration for the official opening including sponsorship and local charity support.



HRH the Duke of Gloucester officially opened the bridge on behalf of our customer West Sussex County Council and Adur District Council. The Council Chairman introduced the Duke to the waiting crowds, and following a blessing from the local reverend, the Duke closed the swing section to symbolically make complete the thoroughfare, to great praise from all assembled.

TOP: Grand Opening conga along the bridge

BOTTOM: Fireworks to celebrate the Grand Opening